

Unfortunately, federal resources have not kept pace with the massive increase in refuge size and management demands. That shortfall puts the refuges at risk. For example, the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge was identified by Defenders of Wildlife as one of the nation's ten most threatened wildlife refuges in 2004. Its wetlands have been drastically altered by urbanization and many areas have been filled to create more land. As a result, the San Francisco Bay is now one-third smaller than its original size.

In addition to rare flora and fauna, these refuges offer other benefits. In hosting more than 1.5 million visitors every year, they serve as powerful economic engines for northern California. Their urban setting provides opportunities to educate surrounding communities about the need for environmental preservation. Restored wetlands also provide cost-effective shoreline protection and counter sea-level rise caused by global warming. In fact, the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has determined that restoring wetlands and protecting those that remain represents an immediate opportunity for enhancing carbon absorption—a key to combating global warming.

The San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex Establishment Act is very simple. It authorizes such sums as may be necessary for the development, recovery, and acquisition of refuge lands and the restoration of fish and wildlife habitat. This bill is endorsed by Save the Bay, an environmental organization that has been fundamental in protecting and restoring the wildlife oases in the Bay Area's urban environment.

I urge Members to join us to protect this crucial part of our environment. By enacting this bill, we are taking an important step toward saving rare California wildlife from extinction, fighting global warming, and preserving a beautiful part of our country that can be enjoyed by future generations.

HONORING U.S. COAST GUARD  
CAPTAIN ROBERT W. DURFEY, JR.

**HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 2008*

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in honoring the notable career of a distinguished member of the United States Coast Guard, and a constituent, Captain Robert W. Durfey, Jr.

Captain Durfey has led an exemplary career, having served in the United States Coast Guard for over 30 years. He has amassed a vast institutional knowledge after decades of experience in a wide variety of operational, command, and staff assignments. In addition, his dedication to his fellow man and community is deep and ingrained, as evidenced by his volunteer work rebuilding housing for victims of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Captain Durfey graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science in History/Government. In 1994, he earned his Masters in Public Admin-

istration from the J.F.K. School of Government at Harvard University. He has served at six Air Stations and five Groups along the west, gulf and east coasts as well as Puerto Rico. He has logged over 4800 helicopter flight hours and has flown more than 400 Search and Rescue missions.

He served as a Deck Watch Officer on a Buoy Tender in Alaska before going to Naval flight training to become a helicopter pilot, where he became Coast Guard Aviator #2113. Just prior to his Boston assignment, Captain Durfey commanded the Coast Guard's largest Group-Air Station combination, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. His helicopter and boat crews prosecuted over 1,800 search and rescue cases annually. He also commanded Group-Air Station Humboldt Bay, in northern California, between 1998 and the summer of 2000.

He was promoted to the rank of Captain during a year of strategic studies at the Air War College (2000–2001), which included training on terrorism, intelligence and overseas travel to Israel and Syria. He has had two major commands and most recently served as the Chief of Governmental Affairs and Public Affairs for the Admiral of First Coast Guard District, which oversees the northeast portion of the United States. The area of responsibility includes eight States from Maine to New Jersey.

As the United States Representative for the Tenth District of Massachusetts for the last twelve years, I have had the opportunity to work with and get to know Robert Durfey both as a professional and as a man. He has lived his life with a concern for others and the safety of our country. Robert Durfey is a gifted individual whose interpersonal skills are unsurpassed and who commands the respect of his subordinates and peers. As he retires from the United States Coast Guard, I want to add my best wishes to the chorus of accolades he has already received. I salute him and may God bless him in all his future endeavors.

HONORING THE BOAT LIVERY OF  
BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE, NEW  
YORK, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS  
100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Boat Livery of Blue Mountain Lake, which next month will celebrate its 100th birthday. Throughout the past century, the Boat Livery of Blue Mountain Lake has continuously provided services in boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing and other recreational activities to residents and visitors alike in the glorious Adirondacks region of New York State. I would like to join with my distinguished colleague from the New York State delegation, the Honorable JOHN MCHUGH, who represents Blue Mountain Lake in Congress, in saluting the Boat Livery of Blue Mountain Lake on the occasion of its centennial anniversary.

Blue Mountain Lake lies in the heart of New York's Adirondack Park. Inspired by the Rev-

erend William Henry Harrison Murray's best-selling 1869 edition of "Adventures in the Wilderness" or "Camp Life in the Adirondacks", vacationers started to visit Blue Mountain Lake after the conclusion of the Civil War, and it became a tourist "hot spot." As visitors arrived in droves, an entire industry developed in response, spawning stately inns and travel guides who offered boat tours and facilitated participation in outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, boating, hiking and camping.

The Boat Livery of Blue Mountain Lake was founded on August 2, 1908 during the heyday of the great camps established by prominent Americans such as Andrew Carnegie, J.P. Morgan, Dr. Thomas Durant, Coulis Huntington, Alfred Vanderbilt and the Hochschild family, many of whom resided in what is now the 14th Congressional district of New York. Since then, the Boat Livery has made available a wide array of rental pleasure craft to visitors to this uniquely beautiful part of our great Nation. It also has offered scenic boat cruises on original wooden launches.

Blue Mountain rises to a majestic height of 3,759 feet, offering stunning views of the shimmering Blue Mountain Lake dotted with islands. With a year-round population of fewer than 200 people, the tiny town surrounding the mountain remains picturesque, preserving its rustic charm despite the presence of thousands of visitors who pass through each season. Blue Mountain Lake is one of the cleanest, clearest lakes in the 48 contiguous states. It continues to draw thousands of city dwellers who are seeking refuge from their muggy, urban homes.

In 1933, Richard Collins and his wife Hectorine purchased the Boat Livery of Blue Mountain Lake and operated it until 1955. In 1955, Russ and Edna Barrowman purchased it and managed it until 1977 when it was bought by Robert and Judi Booth. Robert, Judi, Quin and Parker Booth currently operate the Livery's rowboats, canoes, steamboats, conduct tours and make available to tourists small and large pontoon boats, kayaks, canoes, paddleboats, windsurfers, day-sailers, sunfish, water skis, tubes, wakeboards, and many other vessels. In addition, they organize the special scenic trips in historic antique tour boats: the Towahloondah, dated 1920; the Osprey, dated 1916; and the Neenykin, dated 1916. These authentic vessels are inspected yearly by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, and remain an integral part of the rich diversity of recreational activities at Blue Mountain Lake. On 2-hour tours across Blue Mountain on the old wooden launches, Eagle and Utowana Lakes, guides regale visitors with stories of the 19th century's great camps, recounting the history of the area's lumberjacks and celebrated fishing and hunting guides. Their stories feature the camps, hotels, steamboats, workers and players of the era.

Madam Speaker, I rise to request that my distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to the tremendous contributions to the preservation and enjoyment of the Adirondacks region made by the Boat Livery of Blue Mountain Lake on the occasion of its centennial anniversary.